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Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

May 20, 2022

RE: OCal program for Manufactured Cannabis Products

Dear National Organic Program (NOP) Accredited Certifier,

As you may know, the California manufactured cannabis industry expressed interest in marketing manufactured cannabis products as “Organic”. Since the NOP does not authorize the use of cannabis in human foods, pet foods, and personal care products for organic certification, another form of certification was needed to accommodate the cannabis products manufacturing industry.

In July 2021, The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) launched a program for manufactured cannabis that is comparable to the California Organic Food and Farm Act (COFFA) and the NOP. This new program is called “OCal”. The OCal program for manufactured cannabis products is unique to California and falls under CDPH’s Food and Drug Branch (FDB), which regulates the manufacture of foods, drugs, medical devices, pet foods, and cosmetics, including processed products sold as organic pursuant to the COFFA and NOP.

CDPH’s OCal regulations establish requirements for use of the term OCal, registration of commercial cannabis manufacturers interested in identifying their products as OCal, and registration of third-party OCal certifying agents. Before a commercial cannabis manufacturer can apply to CDPH-FDB for OCal Manufactured Cannabis Registration, the manufacturer must (1) be licensed by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC), and (2) obtain certification from an OCal certifying agent that is registered with CDPH-FDB.

CDPH-FDB is accepting OCal Certifier Registration applications from NOP accredited certifying agents. Important Note: only OCal certifying agents registered with CDPH-FDB are authorized to certify cannabis manufacturers as OCal. CDPH-FDB will maintain a list of approved OCal certifying agents on our OCal webpage.

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95899-7435  
(916) 650-6500 ● (916) 650-6650 FAX  
Internet Address: [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)



We invite you to review our updated [OCal webpage](#) that contains contact information, resources, FAQ's, certifier and manufacturer registration application forms, and the OCal regulations.

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure successful implementation and support of your industry in the California marketplace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Reynolds", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wendy Reynolds, Program Specialist  
Food and Drug Branch  
California Department of Public Health